



Licensed,

*September the 8th. 1676.*

*Roger L'Estrange.*





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(133)

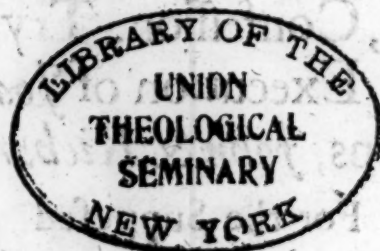
A True and Perfect  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
Examination, Confession, Tryal, Condem-  
nation, and Execution of *Joan Perry*, and  
her two Sons, *John & Richard Perry*,  
For the Supposed  
M U R D E R  
O F  
William Harrison, Gent.

B E I N G

One of the most Remarkable Occurrences  
which hath happened in the memory of Man,  
sent in a Letter (by Sir T. O. of *Burton*, in the County of  
*Glocester*, Kt. and one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace) to  
T. S. Dr. of Physick in *London*.  
Likewise Mr. *Harrison's* own Account, how he was Conveyed  
into *Turkey*, and there made a Slave for above two years; and then  
his Master vvhich Bought him there, Dying, how he made his E-  
scape, and vvhat hardship he endured, vvho at last (through the  
Providence of God) returned to *England*, while he was supposed to  
be Murder'd; here having been his Man-Servant Arraigned (who  
falsly Impeached his own Mother and Brother as Guilty of the  
Murder of his Master) they were all three Arraign'd, Convicted,  
and Executed on *Broad-way-Hills* in *Glocester-shier*.

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*London*, Printed for Rowland Reynolds, next *Arundel-Gate*, over-  
against *St. Clements-Church* in the *Strand*, 1676.



# MURDER OF William Harrison, Gent.

One of the most Remarkable Occurrences  
which hath happened in the memory of Man.  
Lent in a Letter by S<sup>r</sup> T. C. of Exeter, in the County of  
Gloucester, &c. and one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, to  
Y. S. Dr. of Theology in London.  
Likewise Mr. Harrison's own Account, how he was converted  
into a Slave, and there made a Slave for above two years; and then  
his Master which bought him there, Dying, how he made his  
Escape, and what hardships he endured, vntill at last (through the  
Providence of God) returned to England, while he was supposed  
be Murder'd; here having seen his Man Servant Arraigned (who  
falsely impeached his own Master and Brother as Guilty of the  
Murder of his Master) they were all three arraigned, Convicted,  
and Executed on Broad-way, Hill in Old-father-street.

London, Printed for Richard Smith, next St. Dunstons Church, in the Strand, 1726.





A

**True and Perfect Account of the Examination, Confession, Tryal, Condemnation, and Execution of *John Perry*, his Mother and Brother, for the supposed Murther of *William Harrison*, Gent.**

**U**Pon *Thursday* the 16th. day of *August*, 1660. *William Harrison*, Steward to the Lady Viscountess *Campden*, at *Campden* in *Glocestershire*, being about Seaventy years of Age, walked from *Campden* aforesaid, to *Charringworth*, about two miles from thence, to receive his Ladys Rent; and not returning so early as formerly, his Wife (*Mrs. Harrison*, between Eight and Nine of the Clock, that Evening) sent her Servant *John Perry*, to meet his Master on the way from *Charringworth*: But neither *Mr. Harrison*, nor his Servant *John Perry*, returning that night; the next morning early, *Edward Harrison*, (*William's Son*) went towards *Charringworth* to enquire after his Father; when on the way, meeting *Perry* comeing thence, and being informed by him he was not there, they went together to *Ebrington*, a Village between *Charringworth* and *Campden*, where they were told by one *Daniel*, that *Mr. Harrison* call'd at his House the Evening before, in his return from *Charringworth*, but stayed not: They then went to *Paxford*,

A 3

about

about half a mile thence, where hearing nothing of Mr. *Harrison*, they returned towards *Campden*; and on the way, hearing of a Hat, a Band, and Comb, taken up in the High-way (between *Ebrington* and *Campden*) by a poor Woman, then Leasing in the Field; they sought her out, with whom they found the Hat, Band, and Comb, which they knew to be Mr. *Harrisons*; and being brought by the Woman to the place where she found the same (in the High-way, between *Ebrington* and *Campden*, near unto a great Furz-brake) they there Search'd for Mr. *Harrison*, supposing he had been Murthered; the Hat and Comb being hackt and cut, and the Band bloody; but nothing more could be there found. The News hereof coming to *Campden*, so Alarm'd the Town, that Men, Women, and Children hasted thence in multitudes to search for Mr. *Harrison's* supposed dead body, but all in vain.

Mrs. *Harrisons* fears for her Husband being great, were now much increased; and having sent her Servant *Perry* (the Evening before) to meet his Master, and he not returning that Night; caused a Suspicion that he had Rob'd and Murther'd him; and thereupon the said *Perry* was the next day brought before a Justice of Peace; by whom being Examined concerning his Masters absence, and his own staying out the Night he went to meet him, gave this account of himself: That his Mrs. sending him to meet his Master, between Eight and Nine of the Clock in the Evening; he went down *Campden-Field*, towards *Charringworth*, about a Lands length, where meeting one *William Reed* of *Campden*; he acquainted him with his Errand; and further told him, that it growing dark, he was afraid to go forwards, and would therefore return and

fetch

fetch his young Masters Horse, and return with him he did to Mr. *Harrisons* Court gate, where they parted, and he stayed still; one *Pierce* coming by, he went again with him about a Bows shoot into the Fields, and returned with him likewise to his Masters Gate, where they also parted; and then he the said *John Perry* saith, he went into his Masters Hen roost, where he lay about an hour, but slept not; and when the Clock struck Twelve, rose and went towards *Charringworth*, till (a great Mist arising) he lost his way, and so lay the rest of the Night under a Hedge; and at day-break, on *Friday* morning went to *Charringworth*, where he enquired for his Master of one *Edward Plaisterer*, who told him he had been with him the Afternoon before, and received three and twenty pounds of him, but stayed not long with him. He then went to *William Courtis* of the same Town, who likewise told him, he heard his Master was at his House the day before, but being not at home did not see him: After which, he saith, he returned home-wards, (it being about five of the Clock in the morning, when on the way he met this Masters Son, with whom he went to *Ebrington* and *Paxford*, &c. as hath been related.

*Read, Pearce, Plaisterer, and Curtis* being Examined, affirm'd what *Perry* had said concerning them, to be true.

*Perry* being then askt by the Justice of Peace, How he, who was afraid to goe to *Charringworth* at nine of the Clock, became so bold as to go thither at twelve? Answered, That at nine of the Clock it was dark, but at twelve the Moon shone.

Being,



Being further askt, why returning twice home, after his Miltress had sent him to meet his Master, and staying till twelve of the Clock, he went not into the House to know whether his Master were come home, before he went a third time at that time of Night to look after him; Answered, That he knew his Master was not come home, because he saw light in his Chamber-window, which never used to be there so late when he was at home.

Yet notwithstanding this, that *Perry* had said for his staying forth that Night, it was not thought fit to discharge him till further enquiry were made after *Mr. Harrison*, and accordingly he continued in Custody at *Campden*, sometimes in an Inn there, and sometimes in the Common Prison, from *Saturday August* the 18th. unto the *Friday* following; during which time, he was again Examined at *Campden* by the aforesaid Justice of Peace, but confessed nothing more than before; nor at that time, could any further discovery be made what was become of *Mr. Harrison*: But it hath been said, that during his restraint at *Campden*, he told some (who prest him to Confess what he knew concerning his Master) That a Tinker had Kill'd him; and to others, he said, a Gentlemans Servant of the Neighbour-hood had Rob'd and Murder'd him; and others again, he told, that he was Murder'd, and hid him in a Bean-rick in *Campden*, where search was (in vain) made for him. At length he gave out, that were he again carried before the Justice, he would discover that to him he would not discover to no body else: And thereupon he was (*Friday, August* the 24th.) again broght before the Justice of Peace, who first Examined him, and asking him whether he would yet Confess what was become of his Master, he Answered, he was Murder'd



der'd, but not by him : The Justice of Peace then telling him, That if he knew him to Murdered, he knew likewise by whom he was, so he acknowledged he did ; and being urged to confess what he knew concerning it, affirmed that it was his Mother and his Brother that had Murdered his Master. The Justice of Peace then advised him to consider what he said, telling him, that he feared he might be Guilty of his Masters Death, and that he should not draw more Innocent blood upon his head ; for what he now charged his Mother and Brother with, might cost them their Lives, but he affirming he spoke nothing but the Truth, and that if he were immediately to Dye, he would justifie it : The Justice desired him to declare how and when they did it.

He then told him, that his Mother and his Brother had lain at him ever since he came into his Masters Service, to help them to money, telling him how poor they were, and that it was in his power to Relieve them, by giving them notice when his Master went to receive his Ladys Rents, for they would then Way-lay and Rob him ; and further said, that upon the *Thursday* morning his Master went to *Charringworth*, going of an Errant into the Town, he met his Brother in the Street, whom he then told whether his Master was going, and if he Way-laid him, he might have his mony : And further said, that in the Evening his Mistress sent him to meet his Master, he met his Brother in the Street, before his Masters Gate, going (as he said) to meet his Master, and so they went together to the Church-yard, about a stones throw from Mr. *Harrison's* Gate, where they parted, he going the Foot-way, cross the Church-yard, and his Brother keeping the great Road, round the

B Church,

Church; but in the High-way, beyond the Church, met again, and so went together, the way leading to *Charringworth*, till they came to a Gate about a Bows shoot from *Campden-Church*, that goes into a ground of the Lady *Campdens*, called the *Conygree* (which to those, who have a Key, to goe through the Garden is the next way from that place to *Mr. Harrisons House*) when they came near unto that Gate, he, the said *John Perry*, saith he told his Brother, he did believe his *Master* was just gone into the *Conygree*, (for it was then so dark they could not discern any man, so as to know him) but perceiving one to go into that Ground, and knowing there was no way (but for those who had a Key) through the Gardens, concluded it was his *Master*; and so told his Brother, if he followed him he might have his mony, and he in the mean time would walk a turn in the Fields, which accordingly he did; and then following his Brother about the middle of the *Conygree*, found his *Master* on the ground, his Brother upon him, and his Mother standing by; and being asked whether his *Master* were then dead, answered no; for that after he came to them, his *Master* cryed, *Ah Rogues, will you Kill me*: at which, he told his Brother, he hoped he would not Kill his *Master*; who replied, *Peace, Peace, you're a Fool*, and so Strangled him; which having done, he took a bag of money out of his Pocket, and threw it into his *Mother's* lap; and then he and his Brother carried his *Masters* dead body into the Garden adjoyning to the *Conygree*, where they consulted what to do with it; and at length agreed to throw it into the great Sink, by *Wallingtons* Mill, behind the Garden; but said, his Mother and Brother bad him go up to the Court

Court (next the House) to hearken whether any one were stirring, and they would throw the body into the Sink: And being askt whether it were there, he said, he knew not, for that he left it in the Garden; but his Mother and Brother said they would throw it there; and if it were not there, he knew not where it was, for that he returned no more to them, but went into the Court-gate which goes into the Town, where he met with *John Pearce*, with whom he went into the Field, and again returned with him to his *Masters Gate*; after which, he went into the Hen-roost, where he lay till twelve of the Clock that night, but slept not; and having (when he came from his Mother and Brother) brought with him his *Masters Hat*, Band, and Comb, which he laid in the Hen-roost; he carried the said Hat, Band, and Comb, and threw them (after he had given them three or four cuts with his knife) in the High-way, where they were after found; and being askt, what he intended by so doing? said, he did it, that it might be believed his *Master* had been there Rob'd and Murdered; and having thus disposed of his Hat, Band, and Comb, he went towards *Charringworth*, &c. as hath been related.

Upon this Confession and Accusation, the Justice of Peace gave order for the Apprehending of *Joan* and *Richard Perry*, the *Mother* and *Brother* of *John Perry*, and for searching the Sink where *Mr. Harrison's* body was said to be thrown, which was accordingly done, but nothing of him could be there found: the Fish-pools likewise (in *Campden*) were drawn and searcht, but nothing could be there found neither; so that some were of opinion, the body might be



hid in the Ruins of *Campden*-House, burnt in the late Wars, and not unfit for such a Concealment, where was likewise search made, but all in vain.

*Saturday, August the 25th.* *Joan* and *Richard Perry*, together with *John Perry*, were brought before the Justice of Peace, who acquainting the said *Joan* and *Richard* with what *John* had laid to their charge, they denied all, with many Imprecations on themselves, if they were in the least guilty of any thing, of which they were Accused: But *John* on the other side, affirmed (to their faces) that he had spoken nothing but the truth, and that they had murdered his Master; further telling them, that he could never be at quiet for them, since he come into his Masters Service, being continually followed by them, to help them to money, which the told him, he might do by giving them notice when his Master went to receive his Ladys Rents; and that he meeting his Brother *Richard* in *Campden*-Town, the *Thursday*-morning his Master went to *Charringworth*, told him whether he was going, and upon what Errand: *Richard* confessed he met his Brother that morning, and spoke with him, but nothing past between them to that purpose, and both he and his Mother told *John* he was a Villain to accuse them wrongfully, as he had done: but *John* on the other side affirmed that he had spoken nothing but the truth, and would justifie it to his Death.

One remarkable Circumstance happened in these Prisoners return from the Justice of Peace his House to *Campden*, viz. *Richard Perry* (following a good distance behind his Brother *John*) pulling a Clout out of



of his Pocket, dropt a Ball of Inkle; which one of his Gard taking up, he desired him to restore, saying, it was only his Wifes Hair-lace; but the party opening of it, and finding a slip-knot at the end, went and shewed it unto *John*, who was then a good distance before, and knew nothing of the dropping and taking up of this Inkle; but being shewed it, and askt whether he knew it, shook his Head, and said, yea, to his sorrow; for that was the String his Brother Strangled his Master with: This was Sworn upon the Evidence at their Tryal.

The morrow being the Lords-day, they remained at *Campden*, where the Minister of the place designing to speak to them (if possible to perswade them to Repentance, and a farther Confession) they were brought to Church; and in their way thither, passing by *Richard's* House, two of his Children meeting him, he took the lesser in his Arm, leading the other in his Hand, when on a sudden, both their Noses fell a bleeding, which was lookt upon as Ominous.

Here it will be no Impertinent digression to tell how the year before Mr. *Harrison* had his House broken open between Eleaven and Twelve of the Clock at Noon, upon *Campden*-Market-day, whilst himself and his whole Family were at the Lecture; a Ladder being set up to a Window of the second story, and an Iron bar wrencht thence with a Ploughshare, which was left in the Room, and Seaven-score pounds in money carried away, the Authors of which Robbery could never be found.

After

1342) After this, and not many weeks before Mr. *Harrison's* absence, his Servant *Perry*, one Evening, in *Camden-Garden*, made an hideous Out-cry, whereat, some who heard it, coming in, met him running, and seemingly frightened, with a Sheep-pick in his hand, to whom he told a formal Story, how he had been set upon by two men in white, with naked Swords, and how he defended himself with his Sheep-pick, the handle whereof was cut in two or three places, and likewise a Key in his Pocket, which he said, was done with one of their Swords.

These passages the Justice of Peace having before heard, and calling to mind, upon *Perry's* Confession, askt him first concerning the Robbery, when his Master lost Seven-score pounds out of his House, at Noon-day; whether he knew who did it? who answered, yes, it was his Brother: And being further askt, whether he were then with him? he answered, No, he was then at Church; but that he gave him notice of the Money, and told him in which Room it was, and where he might have a Ladder that would reach the Window, and that his Brother after told him he had the money, and had buried it in his Garden, and that they were at *Michaelmas* next to have divided it: Whereupon search was made in the Garden, but no money could be there found.

And being further askt concerning that other passage of his being Assaulted in the Garden; he confessed it was all a Fiction, and that having a design to Rob his Master, he did it, that Rogues being believed to haunt the place, when his Master was Rob'd, they might be thought to have done it.

A.

At the next Affizes, which were held in *September* following, *John, Joan, and Richard Perry* had two Indictments found against them; one for breaking into *William Harrison's* House, and Robbing him of One hundred and forty pounds in the year 1659. The other for Robbing and Murthering of the said *William Harrison* the 16th. day of *August*, 1660. Upon the last Indictment, the then Judge of Affizes, *Sr. C. T.* would not try them, because the body was not found; but they were then Tryed upon the other Indictment for Robbery, to which they pleaded Not Guilty; but some Whispering behind them, they soon after Pleased Guilty, humbly begging the benefit of his Majesties Gracious Pardon, and Act of Oblivion, which was granted them.

But though they pleaded Guilty to this Indictment, being thereunto prompted (as is probable) by some who were unwilling to loose time, and trouble the Court with their Tryal, in regard the Act of Oblivion Pardoned them; yet they all, afterwards, and at their Deaths, denied that they were Guilty of that Robbery, or that they knew who did it.

Yet at this Affize, as several Credible persons have affirmed, *John Perry* still persisted in his Story, that his Mother and Brother had Murdered his Master; and further added, that they had attempted to Poyson him in the Goale, so that he durst neither eat nor drink with them.



At the next Assizes, which were the Spring following, *John, Joan, and Richard Perry*, were by the then Judge of Assize, *Sr. B. H.* Tryed upon the Indictment of Murder, and pleaded thereunto, severally, Not Guilty; and when *John's* Confession, before the Justice, was proved, *Viva Voce*, by several Witnesses who heard the same, he told them, he was then Mad, and knew not what he said.

The other two, *Richard and Joan Perry*, said they were wholly Innocent of what they were Accused, and that they knew nothing of *Mr. Harrison's* Death, nor what was become of him; and *Richard* said, that his Brother had Accused others as well as him, to have Murdered his Master; which the Judge bidding him prove, he said, that most of those that had given Evidence against him, knew it; but naming none, not any one spoke to it, and so the Jury found them all three Guilty.

Some few days after, being brought to the place of their Execution, which was on *Broadway-Hill*, in sight of *Campden*, the Mother (being Reputed a Witch, and to have so Bewitched her Sons, they could confess nothing while she lived) was first Executed: After which, *Richard* being upon the Ladder, Professed as he had done all along, That he was wholly Innocent of the Fact, for which he was then to Dye; and that he knew nothing of *Mr. Harrison's* Death, nor what was become of him; and did with great earnestness beg and beseech his Brother (for the satisfaction of the whole World, and his own Conscience) to declare what he



he knew concerning him; but he with a dogged and surly carriage, told the People, he was not obliged to Confess to them; yet immediately before his Death, said, he knew nothing of his Masters Death, nor what was become of him, but they might hereafter, possibly, hear.

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For

1846

(13)

logged a little with a dog  
and a few others, but the dog  
was not very friendly. The  
dog was not very friendly.  
The dog was not very friendly.

For

C

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*For Sr. T. O. Knight.*

**Honoured Sir,**

**I**N Obedience to your Commands, I give you this true Account of my being carried away beyond the Seas, my continuance there, and return home. On a *Thursday* in the Afternoon, in the time of *Harvest*, I went to *Charringworth* to demand Rents, due to my Lady *Campden*; at which time the Tennants were busie in the Fields, and late ere they came home, which occasioned my stay there till the close of the Evening. I expected a considerable Sum, but received only three and twenty pounds, and no more. In my return home (in the narrow passage, amongst *Ebrington-Furzes*) there met me one Horse-man, and said, *Art thou there*: and I fearing that he would have rid over me, struck his Horse over the Nose; whereupon he struck at me with his Sword, several blows, and run it into my Side; while I (with my little Cane) made my defence as well as I could; at last another came behind me, run me into the Thigh, laid hold on the collar of my Dubler, and drew me to a Hedge, near to the place; then came in another: They did not take  
C 2 my

my money, but mounted me behind one of them, drew my arms about his middle; -and fastned my wrists together with something that had a Spring-lock to it as I conceived, by hearing it give a snap as they put it on; then they threw a great Cloak over me, and carried me away: In the Night they alighted at a Hay-rick which stood near unto a Stone-pit by a Wall side, where they took away my Money, about two hours before day (as I heard one of them tell the other he thought it to be then) they tumbled me into the Stone-pit; they staid (as I thought) about an hour at the Hay-rick, when they took Horse again, one of them bad me come out Of the Pit, I answered, they had my Money already; and asked what they would do with me, whereupon he struck me again, drew me out, and put a great quantity of money into my Pockets, and mounted me again after the same manner; and on the *Friday*, about Sun-setting, they brought me to a lone House upon a Heath, (by a thicket of Bushes, where they took me down almost dead, being sorely bruised with the carriage of the money: When the Woman of the House saw that I could neither stand nor speak, she asked them whether or no they had brought a dead man? they answered no, but a Friend that was hurt, and they carrying him to a Chyrurgion; she answered, If they did not make hast their Friend would be dead before they could bring him to one: There they laid me on Cushions, and suffered none to come into the Room but a little Girl; there we staid all Night, they giving me some Broth and Strong-waters: In the Morning, very early, they mounted



mounted me as before, and on *Saturday*-night they brought me to a place where were two or three Houses, in one of which, I lay all Night on Cushions, by their Bed-side: On *Sunday*-morning they carried me from thence, and about three or four a Clock they brought me to a place by the Sea-side, called *Deal*, where they laid me down on the ground; and one of them staying by me, the other two walked a little off, to meet a man, with whom they talked; and in their discourse, I heard them mention seven pounds; after which, they went away together, and about half an hour after returned. The man (whose name as I after heard, was *Wrenshaw*) said, he feared I would dye before he could get me on Board; then presently they put me into a Boat, and carried me on Ship-board, where my Wounds were dressed. I remained in the Ship (as near as I could reckon) about six weeks, in which time I was indifferently Recovered of my Wounds and Weakness. Then the Master of the Ship came and told me, (and the rest who were in the same Condition) that he discovered three Turkish Ships; we all offered to Fight in the defence of the Ship and ourselves, but he commanded us to keep close, and said, he would deal with them well enough: A little while after he called us up, and when we came on the Deck, we saw 2. Turkish Ships close by us; into one of them we were put, and placed in a dark Hole, where, how long we continued before we were Landed, I know not: When we were Landed, they led us 2. days Journey, and put us into a great House, or Prison, where we remained 4. days.

1350

days and a half; and then came to us eight men to view us, who seemed to be Officers; they called us, and examined us of our Trades and Callings, which every one answered: One said he was a Chyrurgion, another that he was a Broad-cloath-Weaver, and I (after two or three demands) said I had some skill in Physick: We three were set by, and taken by three of those eight men that came to view us: It was my chance to be chosen by a grave Physitian of Eighty-seaven years of Age, who lived near to *Smirna*, who had formerly been in *England*, and knew *Crowland* in *Lincoln-shire*, which he preferred before all other places in *England*: He employed me to keep his Still-house, and gave me a Silver Bowl double gilt, to drink in; my business was most in that place; but once he set me to gather Cotton-Wool, which I not doing to his mind, he struck me down to the ground, and after drew his Steletto to Stab me; but I holding up my hands to him, he gave a stamp, and turned from me, for which I render thanks to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who staid his hand, and preserved me. I was there about a year and three quarters, and then my Master fell Sick on a *Thursday*, and sent for me; and calling me as he used, by the name of *Boll*, told me he should dye, and bad me shift for my self: He dyed on *Saturday* following, and I presently hastened with my Bowl to a Port almost a days Journey distant; the way to which place I knew, having been twice there imploy'd by my Master about the carriage of his Cotton-wool: When I came thither, I addressed my self to two men who came out

out of a Ship of *Hamborough*, which (as they said) was bound for *Portugal* within three or four days; I enquired of them for an English Ship, they answered there was none; I intreated them to take me into their Ship, they answered, they durst not, for fear of being discover'd by the Searchers, which might occasion the forfeiture, not only of their Goods, but also of their Lives: I was very importunate with them, but could not prevail; they left me to wait on Providence, which at length brought another out of the same Ship, to whom I made known my condition, craving his Assistance for my Transportation; he made me the like answer as the former, and was as stiff in his denial, till the sight of my Bowl put him to a pause: He returned to the Ship, and after half an hours space, he came back again accompanied vwith another Sea-man, and for my Bowl undertook to Transport me: but told me I must be contented to lye down in the Keel, and endure much hardship, vvhich I vvas content to do, to gain my Liberty; so they took me Aboard, and placed me belovv in the Vessel in a very uneasie place, and obscur'd me vwith boards and other things, vvhether I lay undiscover'd, notwithstanding the strict Search that was made in the Vessel; my two Chap-men, vvhich had my Bowl, honestly furnished me vwith Victuals daily, until vve Arriv'd at *Lisbon* in *Portugal*; vvhether (as soon as the Master had left the Ship, and vvas gone into the City) they set me on Shoar money-less to shift for my self: I knew not vvhether to take, but as Providence led me I vvent up into the City, and came into a fair Street; and being



being vveary, I turned my back to a Wall; and leaned upon my Staff: over against me vvere four Gentle-men discoursing together; after a vvhile one of them came to me, and spake to me in a Language that I understood not: I told him I vvas an English man, and understood not vvhat he spake; he answered me in plain English, that he understood me, and vvas himself Born near *Wisbich* in *Lincoln-shire*; then I related to him my sad condition, and he taking Compassion on me, took me vvith him, provided for me Lodging and Dyet, and by his Interest vvith a Master of a Ship, bound for *England*, procured my Passage; and bringing me on Ship-board, he bestovved Wine and Strong-vvaters on me, and at his return, gave me eight Stivers, and commended me to the Care of the Master of the Ship, vvho Landed me safe at *Dover*, from vvhence I made shift to get to *London*, vvhere being furnished vvith Necessaries, I came into the Country.

Thus Honoured Sir, I have given you a true Account of my great Snfferings, and happy Deliverance, by the Mercy and Goodness of God, my most Gracious Father in Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer; to vvhose Name be Ascribed all Honour, Praise, and Glory, I conclude, and rest

*Your Worships,*

*in all Dutifnl respect,*

**William Harrison.**



SIR,

**I** have not been any forgetfulness in me, you have no sooner heard from me, but my unhappy distemper seasing on my right hand, soon after my coming down into the Country, so that till now I have been wholly deprived the use of it. I have herewith sent you a short Narrative of that no less strange than unhappy business, which some years since happened in my Neighbourhood; the truth of every particular whereof I am able to attest, and I think it may very well be reckon'd amongst the most remarkable Occurrences of this age: You may dispose of it as you please, and in what ever else I can serve you, you may freely command me, as, Sir,

Your most affectionate Kinsman  
Burton, Aug. 23.  
1676.

and Humble Servant,

*Tho. Overbury.*

D

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1354

Many question the truth of this Account Mr. *Harrison* gives of himself, and his Transportation, believing he was never out of *England*: But there is no question of *Perry's* telling a formal false Story to hang himself, his Mother and his Brother: And since this, of which we are assured is no less incredible than that of which we doubt; it may induce us to suspend hard thoughts of Mr. *Harrison*, till time, the great discoverer of truth, shall bring to light this dark and mysterious business. That Mr. *Harrison* was absent from his Habitation, Employment, and Relations, near two years, is certain; and if not carried away (as he affirms) no probable Reason can be given for his absence; he living plentifully and happily in the Service of that Honourable Family, to which he had been then Related above fifty years, with the Reputation of a just and faithful Servant; and having all his days been a man of sober Life and Conversation, cannot now reasonably be thought in his old Age, so far, to have mis-behaved himself; as in such a manner voluntarily to have forsaken his Wife, his Children, and his Stewardship, and to leave behind him (as he then did) a considerable Sum of his Ladys Money in his House; we cannot therefore in Reason or Charity, but believe that Mr. *Harrison* was forcibly carried away; but by whom, or by whose procurement, is the question. Those whom he affirms did it, he withal affirms never before to have seen; and that he saw not his Servant *Perry*, nor his Mother, nor his



his Brother the Evening he was carried away ; that he was Spirited (as some are said to have been) is no ways probable, in respect he was an Old and Infirm man, and taken from the most In-land part of the Nation ; and if Sold, as himself apprehends he was, for seaven pounds, would not recompence the trouble and charge of his conveyance to the Sea-side.

Some therefore have had hard thoughts of his Eldest Son, not knowing whom else to suspect ; and believe the hopes of the Stewardship, which he afterwards (by the Lord *Campden's* favour) enjoyed, might induce him to contrive his Fathers Removal ; and this is more confirmed in, from his mis behaviour in it ; but on the other side, 'tis hard to think the Son should be knowing of his Fathers Transportation ; and consequently, of these unhappy Persons Innocency, as to the Murder of him, and yet prosecute them to the Death, as he did, and when Condemned, should be the occasion of their being conveyed above twenty miles, to suffer near *Campden*, and to procure *John Perry* to be there hang'd in Chains, where he might daily see him, and himself to stand at the foot of the Ladder, when they were all Executed, as likewise he did.

These considerations, as they make it improbable the Son should be privy to his Fathers Transportation, so they render the whole matter the more dark and mysterious, which we must therefore leave unto Him who alone knoweth all things, in his due time to reveal and bring to light.

FINIS.

